

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8011

By Terry

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Sergeant William Thomas Cole Lukens upon being named the 2021 Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Sergeant William Thomas Cole Lukens, a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard unit in Smyrna, who was recently named the 2021 Army National Guard Soldier of the Year after winning the Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition; and

WHEREAS, a tactical power generator mechanic in the 208<sup>th</sup> Area Support Medical Company, Sergeant Lukens was one of thirteen finalists among national guard soldiers and non-commissioned officers selected to compete in the 2021 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition; and

WHEREAS, on the first day of the competition, Sergeant Lukens successfully completed a variety of challenges that tested his fitness, land navigation skills, and other warrior skills, including assembling a rifle blindfolded and swimming twenty-five meters in full uniform; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Lukens participated in a challenging ruck march with a thirty-five-pound pack and strode to victory a full twenty minutes ahead of the next competitor; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Lukens's extraordinary achievements throughout the competition earned him the designation "2021 Army National Guard Soldier of the Year" and a Meritorious Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with the Tennessee Army National Guard, Sergeant Lukens is a senior at Middle Tennessee State University and serves as president of the Kappa Sigma fraternity; and

WHEREAS, this fall, Sergeant Lukens will be competing in the U.S. Army's Best Warrior Competition, representing more than 330,000 soldiers from fifty-four states and territories in the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Lukens epitomizes the volunteer spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Sergeant Lukens for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Sergeant William Thomas Cole Lukens upon being named the 2021 Army National Guard Soldier of the Year and wish him the best of luck in the U.S. Army's Best Warrior Competition and his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.